

Cutter conducts college class underway

*Kukui offers its crew
general(l's) history course*

by LTJG Erin Traber
Public affairs officer

Who says you can't earn college credit while assigned to a small afloat unit?

Sixteen crewmembers aboard the *CGC Kukui* did just that by earning three upper-level college credit during a recent 23-day aids to navigation servicing deployment.

On May 3, The *Kukui* got underway from Sand Island to service aids to navigation in Midway Island's harbor and to patrol waters south of the Hawaiian islands. In keeping with a tradition the ship founded last year, the *Kukui* arranged to bring a guest instructor aboard and offer a college course to the crew.

This was the second such "Instructor Underway" program achieved in the Coast Guard, and the second accomplished by the *Kukui*.

Of the ship's educational services officer, the crew requested: "a general history course." They got *exactly* that.

General Jerome T. Hagen (USMC, retired) taught a three-semester-hour, 3000-level college history course aboard the *Kukui*, titled *War in the Pacific*. Hagen is the dean of academic advising and an adjunct professor at Hawaii Pa-



CGC Kukui crewmembers participate in a college course while underway.

cific University (HPU). Before his employment at HPU, he led an impressive military career. A distinguished aviator, he flew 483 combat mission in Vietnam and earned the Silver Star medal among other awards and decorations. Hagen enlisted in the Marine Corps at 19, steadily climbed the ranks of the Marine Corps, and served his country for 30 years. The entire crew was amazed and intrigued by the stories Hagen contributed both in and outside of the history class.

The history course originated from a series of articles published by the *Honolulu Advertiser* in August through September 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. More than 600 readers

wrote the *Advertiser* and commented favorably. HPU published a compilation of the articles and has offered a course based on Hagen's book at both university campuses and satellite military bases since 1996. HPU's Hickam AFB satellite worked extensively with the *Kukui* and was instrumental in planning the trip and registering the students. The Coast Guard's tuition assistance program covered three-quarters of the tuition. Degree-seeking members will be reimbursed for their textbooks through the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Supplemental Education Grant. Approximately one-third of the ship's crew en-

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From the commanding officer...

By LCDR Todd Campbell
Coast Guard Institute commanding officer



“Ooooooklahoma, where the wind comes sweepin’ down the plain”... I just could not help myself — this really is a very catchy song. Yes indeed, this most definitely is not Alabama anymore Toto, and I have the red dust on my car to prove it. It has been twelve years since my last Midwest military assignment and I am enthusiastic about my new job here at the Coast Guard Institute. I look forward to building on the improvements begun by LT Brad Wilson and his predecessors. I want to take a moment to thank LT Wilson for his exceptional work here and wish him well in his assignment as the 17th District public affairs officer.

The main reason I feel so passionate about this job is that I have personally benefited from the services that this Institute provides. In the previous edition of *Campus News*, LT Wilson gave you a good review of the various departments here at the Institute and a brief summary of what each one does and the few people who do it for you. This previous column gives me a perfect springboard into what I want to share with you in this column — a personal inventory of your career (skills, training and experience).

What are your skills, training and experience worth? I asked myself that very question several years ago when I realized that after a long military career, I had no real good idea of what I had accomplished professionally. Ask yourself these questions: What interests do I want to pursue? What skills, training and experience do I possess to help me pursue these interests? How do I assess these? How do I get from where I am now to where I want to be? Self-examination is sometimes difficult but extremely necessary. I would like to share with you my personal process and the steps I went through to help answer some of the questions I have posed here.

Step one — Stop procrastinating! Make time to inventory your life experience and training (both military and civilian). Take advantage of what the Coast Guard has to offer. Start by setting a date this week to gather your official documents (civilian & military) which certify and document your experience, training and skills. I knew I wanted a future career in aviation and needed to start at that moment to prepare for when my Coast Guard Career finally ends. So I rifled through 16 years of aviation documents stored in numerous boxes. All that training and experience had to be worth something, and it was. Transcripts, training certificates, course completion letters, report cards, diplomas, etc. are all valuable assessment documents. You will amaze yourself by everything you

have already accomplished and did not even know it.

Step two — Get organized! Once you have gathered your documentation, you will need to do something with it. Ensure documents for your military experience and training mirror what is in PMIS about you (check with your PERSRU on this). Schedule a time to meet with your ESO and make sure he or she gets back with you. While you are waiting to see your ESO, you can become savvy about what the Coast Guard can offer you by checking out the Voluntary Education section of the Coast Guard Institute web site at www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/index.htm. Reviewing our web site will be very helpful and will educate you about the right questions to ask your ESO.

While you are at our web site, look under the Voluntary Education link and select the **Get credit for your Coast Guard experience** link. This link will take you to a list of links — select the **Official assessment by the Coast Guard Institute** (CGI Form 1560/04e) link. The CGI 1560/04e is the form that you and your ESO will use to document your experience and training; follow the instructions carefully and make sure it is filled out completely. Your ESO will complete section 9 of this form and mail it to us. Please ensure you make copies of everything before it is mailed; this is not a perfect world and in case something

After you receive
your official assessment
back from the Institute
— do not procrastinate.

Do not let your mo-
mentum slip away —
enroll immediately!

goes wrong, this is cheap insurance for you. The other important link is for the Official Coast Guard Transcript (CGI Form 1560/09), this transcript will be only be issued after your assessment from the CGI Form 1560/04e has been completed.

Step three — Get started by getting enrolled! After you receive your official assessment back from the Institute — do not procrastinate as I did. Enroll in the course(s) spelled out in one of the recommended degree plans; your ESO can assist you in getting this done. Keep your momentum and energy high about achieving your educational goal — this is so important! Do not let your momentum slip away — enroll immediately! Lack of finances should NOT stop you from pursuing your education and ultimately your dreams either. Financial assistance in the Coast Guard today is better than it has ever been. Take advantage of Coast Guard Tuition Assistance (TA). It pays 75 percent of your tuition costs for courses that qualify, up to \$2,500 a year (see your ESO for details). If you have MGIB benefits, they can also be used to pay the remaining 25 percent of the tuition costs for qualifying courses (www.va.gov/education/) — this is a real good deal! If you are E-3 through E-9 with two or more years of service, you can also use Foundation Grant money to pay for education costs (tuition included) up to \$300. Even your books can be paid for by using Mutual Assistance (CGMA) money, which allows \$300 a year for books

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Outstanding nonresident student for 2000

by Sue Riley
instructional system specialist

The Coast Guard nonresident training program demands specific characteristics of its students: individual effort, dedication and persistence. The nonresident student must possess an inner desire to learn and must utilize self-discipline to perform. In return, the student demands useful instruction, reliable material, and well constructed courses. Through this basic contract, the Coast Guard and the nonresident student form a partnership that serves as a basic learning tool in the Coast Guard. The true value of the nonresident program rests in its elimination of barriers for all parties. The nonresident program is not based on quotas, times slots, availability of instructors, location, accessibility, etc., but can be offered at any time, at any place, and for all students. It is the common bond in Coast Guard training.

Each year the Coast Guard Institute selects a student from a potential list of students who have taken at least three nonresident courses during the calendar year. A computer program ranks the students on the number and the complexity of the courses taken during that year. The top students share a common trait of mastering many complex courses during a calendar year with the winning scores in the high 90s. The units of the top candidates are contacted to see if they would recommend each individual. The responses may differ slightly from year to year, but usually the education services officer from the local unit makes a passing remark such as, "I can't think of a better candidate. This person certainly does well in

everything he or she tries."

The student of the year is no exception. MK2 Paul M. Leon, from Coast Guard Station San Francisco, graduated first in his boot camp class with a 100 percent test average. Upon graduation from Training Center Cape May, he was assigned to Station San Francisco, where he began striking MK in the engineering department. He quickly advanced to MK2 in a three-year period. He qualified as radio watchstander, boarding team member, 41-foot UTB boat crewman, 41-foot UTB boat engineer, boarding officer and station officer of the day. He sought additional responsibilities by passing the Red Cross

The nonresident program is not based on quotas, times slots, availability of instructors, location, accessibility, etc., but can be offered at any time, at any place, and for all students.

month-long advanced emergency response instructor course to become a Coast Guard lifesaver instructor. Leon attended the expandable baton instructor course sponsored by the A.S.P. company and was one of Station San Francisco's HAZMAT first responders after he completed the training provided by ISC Alameda. Leon qualified as a boarding officer and later attended boarding officer school in Yorktown, Va., where he was selected honor graduate. In 1998 he was the San Francisco Navy League winner. He also was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement medal for the heroic rescue of two adults and an infant on a grounded sailing vessel during heavy weather.

The two runners up were equally impressive with their accomplishments. In fact they tied for the honor of runner up. The first of the two runners-up is BM3 Hjalmar Riveratirado. BM3 Riveratirado accomplished much during his tenure



on the *CGC Valiant* from October 1999 to May 2001. Upon reporting, he quickly qualified as helm, lookout, boatswain's mate of the watch, helicopter tie-down team member, boat crewman, coxswain and boarding team member. As a boarding team member during the dockside boarding of M/V ADRIATIK in November 1999, he displayed tenacity and professionalism while helping his shipmates remove 60,000 pounds of sugar to uncover 4,673 pounds of cocaine concealed in the vessel's starboard wing tank. In the wake of Hurricane Lenny, he provided essential assistance during the search for the missing sailing vessels LA VIE EN ROSE and SIR FRANCIS DRAKE. His efforts led to the recovery of one survivor in a raft, one victim and two derelict vessels. In February 2000, during the custody exchange of a seized Jamaican go-fast in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he helped transfer 4,320 pounds of marijuana from the *Gallatin* to the *Valiant*. He displayed outstanding leadership and operational skill while guiding his shipmates through more than 180 successful aviation evolutions as the senior enlisted member of the *Valiant's* helicopter tie down and aviation training teams.

The other runner-up is BM2 Lyle Serber. BM2 Serber earned a bachelor of arts in communications from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Following graduation,

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2001 ESO workshop

Aug. 27 through 29
in Oklahoma City

The Coast Guard is experiencing an exceptionally high ESO turnover this year, which causes some concern about the knowledge ESOs

possess in the administration of the Coast Guard's voluntary education program. The program is more complex than ever, with numerous policy and procedural changes. ESOs who have an in-depth knowledge of these programs can help members achieve their educational goals in a cost-effective manner.

Please complete the ESO workshop registration form if you can commit unit/command funds to attend this workshop. Please submit

your registration forms as soon as possible. This form also is available on the institute's web site, www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/esoworkshop.htm.

Programs to be addressed are Educational Assessments, Degree Plans, Transcripts, Tuition Assistance, Foundation Grant, ACE Review Process, DANTES Examination Program, External Degree Programs, Independent Study Courses, Audio/Video Course Library and Coast Guard Correspondence Courses.

The workshop is slated for Aug. 27 through 29 at Oklahoma City's Biltmore Hotel.

Hotel room cost is \$65 (not including taxes). Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel, (405) 947-7681. The deadline for making reservations is Aug. 17. A registration fee of \$60 will be charged. Participants should ensure that the registration fee is authorized on their travel orders. Commands desiring to send their ESOs for training will be required to pay the travel and per diem costs.

2001 ESO workshop registration form

Please select one: ☐ Presenter ☐ Exhibitor ☐ Attendee

Title: _____

Name: _____

Name for badge: _____

Organization/Institution/Branch of service: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail completed form to:

5900 SW 64th Street

Room 225, Attn: Admin

Oklahoma City, OK 73169-6990

First lady announces 10-fold increase in Troops to Teachers funding

by Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
USA American Forces Press Service

First lady Laura Bush announced May 8 that her husband has requested a tenfold increase in funding — from \$3 million to \$30 million — for the Troops to Teachers program next year.

"I hope that sends a message about how important it is to encourage people to choose teaching, and particularly how important it is to encourage retiring military," Mrs. Bush said.

The first lady was in South Carolina to speak about the federally funded Troops to Teachers program and to commemorate National Teachers Day. She spoke to students and faculty at the post's Pinckney Elementary, a DoD school.

The Troops to Teachers program is run by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support. The current program provides referral assistance and placement services to military personnel interested in becoming teachers after their military service.

Under the president's increased budget request, the program would be-

gin paying participants up to \$5,000 to help cover the costs of a teacher certification program, White House officials said. Some participants would also receive a \$10,000 bonus if they accept a job in a "high-needs" school district, such as in a very rural area or an inner-city school. Those receiving either financial benefit would then be obligated to teach for at least four years, they said.

Bush said she believes many of the attributes that contribute to success in the military lead to success as a teacher.

"You're tremendous role models with a sense of duty, honor and country that our children would do well to emulate," said Bush, a former elementary

school teacher. She noted that more than 4,000 retired troops have become teachers through this program, but that the country will need "tens of thousands" of new teachers in the next decade.

"I think retiring military personnel who choose teaching as a career will find that it is a very rewarding career," she said. "Working with young people is one of the most rewarding things people can do."

More information on the troops to teachers program is available on the internet at voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/ttppromoaction.htm



First lady Laura Bush speaks about the Troops to Teachers program in front of Pinckney Elementary School at Fort Jackson, S.C., May 8, 2001.

Mrs. Bush said the program brings many men into teaching, a profession traditionally dominated by women. The first lady noted that men comprise about 86 percent of the people who have become teachers through this program.

"In this time of a lot of single parents (and) a lot of children at home without a dad, it's so important to bring men into the schools for children to have good role models," she said.

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and fees, which are not covered by TA. Additionally, there are scholarships, grants, and loans, which can be applied for too! (See www.finaid.org and www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/voled/step6.htm for more information).

Step four — Set a goal! Establish a reasonable target date to finish your recommended educational plan. Remind yourself of that goal daily. Break your goal into manageable smaller goals. When you question whether finishing your course is really worth it, just visualize how proud you and your family will be when you have reached your goal. Remember, you can eat an elephant one bite at a time.

Step five — Be disciplined and stay the course! Stay enrolled every time classes are offered (if possible) and find others around you to help encourage you along the way. Find a friend or shipmate who also has educational goals and ask them to be your running buddy. You WILL achieve your goal before you know it, if you just stick with the plan. Anybody can find excuses to quit or get sidetracked. Tough times will come, but will never last, but tough people do. Graduation is the sweet reward and marks the milestone of achieving your goal. The real reward though, is knowing you have positioned yourself for better opportunities in your

future.

This brief column has provided you only with a small look at what the Coast Guard Institute offers to enhance your education. Your local ESO and the Coast Guard Institute web site can provide you with more details. After 19 years of experience, training and education in the military, I reached my goal and graduated from Thomas Edison State College with a B.S. in Applied Science and Technology with emphasis in Flight Technology in May 2000. You too can reach your goals. Half the battle is just getting started. At the Institute we are excited about helping you reach your educational goals.

Military credit recognition degree program fees

Through partnership agreements, reduced fees are available to those personnel who *enroll through the USCG Institute* and provide a copy

of the degree plan completed by the Institute. Fees are subject to change and the current fee is listed on the degree plan provided to the student.

Below are the fees — effective Sept. 1 — negotiated with the institutions through our partnerships.

School name	Degree program	Application/ initial evaluation	Graduation fee	Total fees	Other fees
Thomas Edison State College	AA/AAS/AS (MDCP)	\$275	\$ 165	\$440	6 sh @ \$120 per sh (upfront TA applies)
	All Bachelors (MDCP)	\$275	\$165	\$440	12 sh @ \$120 per sh (upfront TA applies)
	Traditional Program (Transfer in all credits - all levels)	\$975	\$165	\$1,140	
Excelsior College	AA/AS	\$ 495	\$ 215	\$ 710	
	AAS/AOS	\$385	\$210	\$595	
	BA/BS (liberal arts areas only)	\$ 695	\$ 240	\$ 935	
Charter Oak State College	AA/AS	\$ 367	\$ 140	\$ 507	
	BA/BS	\$ 502	\$ 390	\$ 892	
Phoenix University	AA	\$35	\$40	\$75	EML-299 @ \$495 w/TA total cost is \$198.75

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rolled in the *War in the Pacific* underway course.

The *Kukui* was commissioned into service in 1998. The 225-foot buoytender holds a small crew of 43 people. Its primary missions are servicing federal aids to navigation, at-sea enforcement of federal laws and treaties, and environmental protection and response. The ship operates throughout the Hawaiian Islands and U.S. territories in the South Pacific. Because it is an “optimally-crewed” ship and a large percentage of the crew was

engaged in the course, class times and watch rotations often flexed to meet the ship’s unpredictable schedule. During the underway periods, class met after the workday, in the evenings and on the weekends. While in port at Midway, class was held each night, after liberty was granted to the crew. The course work included daily reading, homework assignments and a final exam.

The ship and crew accomplished many Coast Guard missions during the three-week trip. In addition to servicing Midway

Atoll’s Buoys and lights, the crew recovered approximately 12,000 pounds of derelict fishing net that was floating in the ocean and on the reefs at Midway. The net recovery was a familiar operation to the *Kukui*’s crew, who recovered over 40,000 pounds of net from coral reefs and atolls in the Pacific last fall. Floating net eventually washes ashore and threatens marine life, including the endangered Hawaiian monk seal.

Midway atoll is comprised of two islands, Sand Island and Eastern

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ESO corner



by ENS Kevin Hill
Coast Guard Institute

Welcome back to the ESO corner. I had intended to discuss the CLEP program, but it will be covered more in depth at the ESO workshop. So I will explain some of the most common reasons that requests are rejected and what resources we provide ESOs and Coast Guard members to find out about the status of various requests.

Some of the most common rejections are for errors or missing information on forms that have been submitted, primarily the assessment worksheet, CGI1560/04e, the update worksheet, CGI1560/08, and the transcript request form, CGI1560/09.

When filling out these forms, be sure to fill in each space. The student information, rate information, and dates and locations of training are vital pieces of information for an

assessment. The forms also indicate listing resident courses only if they are five days or longer.

Worksheet forms need to be reviewed and signed by the unit ESO.

The transcript request needs only the member's signature. Transcripts will not be processed without a signed transcript request form; unsigned requests will be returned for signatures.

As these requests are received here at the Institute, the voluntary education department's admin yeoman reviews them for accuracy and enters them into our data base as having been received. Assessments and updates are processed in the order that they are received. These requests normally take anywhere from four to six weeks to complete; however, because of the number of requests pending, education assessments currently are backlogged 10 to 12 weeks. An on-line status report is available to keep member's informed about their personal requests. This list also details the number of weeks that it currently is tak-

ing to complete an assessment/degree plan request. Transcripts typically take two to three weeks for completion because these requests are processed by just one member of the voluntary education staff.

Visit the Voluntary education link on the Institute web site to follow the status of your assessment request. Coast Guard Foundation grant request status also is available on the web site. Please check the institute web site before sending e-mail requests regarding the status of your request.

Members are reminded to not call the Institute directly. The voluntary education department is understaffed, and each phone call takes time away from completing other tasks and ultimately increases the processing time for everyone. Use your ESO, who is your link to voluntary education services.

ESO's: Please direct your unit member-related questions to me at khill@cginstitute.uscg.mil, (405) 954-7240, or to drock@cginstitute.uscg.mil, (405) 954-0072.

ALCOAST announces significant TA policy changes

The 12-month service obligation for tuition assistance participation by enlisted members was rescinded with the release of ALCOAST 297/01. Enlisted members may now enroll in classes using Coast Guard tuition assistance as long as the course of instruction is completed before the members are released from active duty or retire from the service.

The annual tuition assistance cap for selected reserve members has been increased from \$1,500 dollars to \$2,500 dollars. This change in the annual cap for the selected reserve brings the reserve component to established levels for the active-duty and civilian workforces.

Service obligation for reserve and active duty officers remains at 12 months following course completion. Civilian employees must have at least 12 months of prior, continuous government service to be eligible for TA and agree to retain employment with the federal government for one month for each semester hour of credit taken.

Effective Feb. 1, the Defense Department implemented a new policy under which each military service will pay TA for their personnel no

matter where the members are stationed. This is a change to long-standing practice. Therefore, Coast Guard personnel stationed on or near a DOD installation can no longer use TA through the host DOD installation. All Coast Guard personnel must apply for TA through the Coast Guard Institute using Form CG-4147 unless the host command has agreed to process the request. Coast Guard members should check with the local DOD education adviser for specific tuition assistance application

The requirement that applications be submitted 10 working days before the start date of the class has been replaced with the following guidance: "Applicants are responsible for prompt submission of a properly completed application for off-duty assistance form (CG Form 4147). Applicants should plan ahead and submit the request in such a manner as to allow for receipt of the authorization form before class registration. Every effort should be made to submit the application as early as possible."



YN1 David Rock and ENS Kevin Hill of the Institute's Voluntary Education Department assess the department's backlog of education assessment requests. The current waiting time from submission of an assessment request to receipt of an assessment is 10 to 12 weeks.

Campus News

A training newsletter to Team Coast Guard

The Campus News is an unofficial, authorized bimonthly publication of the Coast Guard Institute. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Transportation or the U.S. Coast Guard. Material is for information only and not authority for action. Text is submitted by the Coast Guard nonresident and resident training communities for all members of the Coast Guard.

Commanding officer

LCDR Todd Campbell

Campus News editor

PA1 Richard Matthews

rmatthews@cginstitute.uscg.mil

Phone: (405) 954-1113

Fax: (405) 954-3684

Mail submissions to:

Campus News Editor

USCG Institute (jr)

5900 SW 64 Street, Room 235

Oklahoma City, OK 73169-6990

(405) 954-7231

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, from Page 3

he worked as a special investigator and legal analyst for Excel Telecommunication Inc. He left Excel to pursue a career in nightclub management. He managed eight nightclubs for three years before joining the Coast Guard in August of 1999. Working hard to become a BM3, he soon reported onboard the *CGC Bear* in May 2000. While onboard the *Bear*, Serber qualified for the following watchstanding sta-

tions: security watchstander, lookout helmsman, line handler, boat-swain mate of the watch, helo fire team, helo tie down crew, crane operator (articulating crane for rigid hull inflatable boat), davit operator (motor surf boat), boat deck supervisor, small boat crewman, small boat coxswain, boarding team member and boarding officer. He advanced in rank to BM2 on March 2, 2001 and was accepted to Officer Candi-

date School in the March 3 class. Officer Candidate Serber graduates OCS June 29 and will join the crew and officers of the *CGC Thetis*. Bravo Zulu to our outstanding student, MK2 Paul M. Leon and to our two very fine runner-ups, BM3 (advanced to BM2 in March 2001 and will graduate from OCS in June 2001) Lyle Serber and BM3 Riveratirado.

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Island. Sand Island is the epicenter for those living or visiting Midway. On June 4, 1942, when the Imperial Japanese Navy attempted to capture Midway, the numerous aircraft runways on Eastern Island proved integral to the outpost's defense and America's victory in the battle. Today, the island is a bird sanctuary managed by The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Midway National Wildlife Refuge. Many memorial plaques in recognition of the fallen and the brave dot the small island.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife offered a special, guided tour of Midway's Eastern Island (normally off-limits) to students of the course as well as interested crewmembers.

Hagen had visited Midway on his way to Japan in 1956. Though he was not able to explore the islands then as he did in 2001, he noticed the changes in Midway. Today, there are fewer buildings and a lot more birds. Midway Island is the primary breeding ground for Laysan Albatross. In 1956, the birds were little more than a nuisance, especially to pilots. Now, the birds, their young ("Goonie Birds"), and the breeding grounds are closely monitored.

When work was finished on Midway, the ship traveled south on a seven-day law enforcement patrol. The *Kukui's* law enforcement teams boarded 13 U.S. fishing vessels to ensure their at-sea compliance with applicable federal laws and

regulations. On their way home, the *Kukui* made a quick stop to check and clean the solar panels on NOAA buoy 51003, approximately 200 nautical miles southwest of Oah'u. The ship returned on May 25th, having logged over 3,000 nautical miles.

The "Instructor Underway" program was another resounding success for the *Kukui*. For the second year in a row, the U.S. Coast Guard and Hawaii Pacific University's partnership pooled resources to capitalized on the *Kukui's* extended deployment schedule. Ultimately, this cooperation furthered the crew's educational goals by earning three upper level college credits for over one-third of the personnel on board.